

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Monica Simon

DATE: March 1, 2002

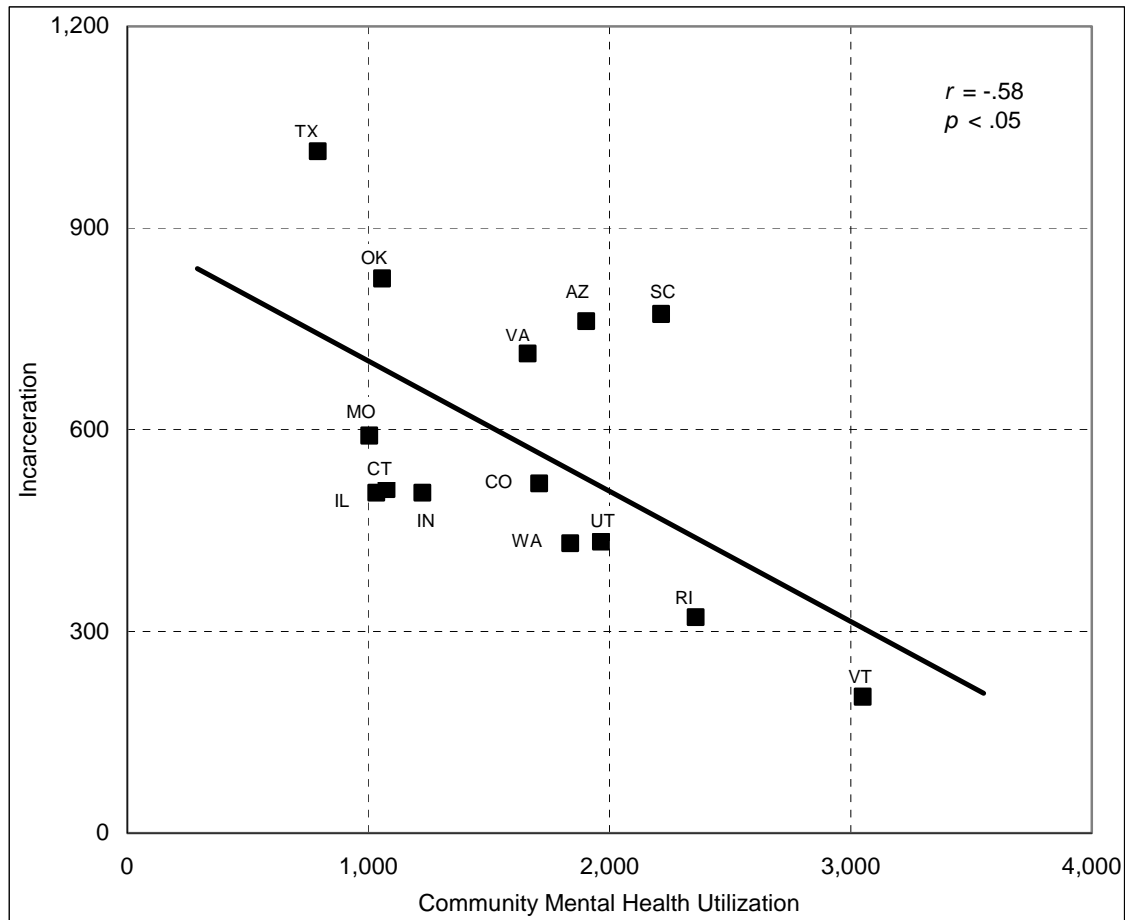
RE: Mental Health and Corrections Utilization Rates

After we displayed a graph of community mental health penetration/utilization data for sixteen states to the Fall meeting of Vermont's Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council, Tom Powell, the Clinical Director of the Vermont Department of Corrections, made an interesting observation. He said that the picture looked about opposite of what he had seen regarding incarceration rates. Vermont was highest in mental health utilization but lowest in incarceration rates. Texas was lowest in community mental health utilization but highest in incarceration. This comment suggested the possibility of an inverse relationship (as one goes up, the other goes down) between community mental health service utilization rates and incarceration rates across states.

The attached page presents the results of our test of Tom's off-handed hypothesis. As you will see, there is a significant negative correlation between community mental health and state prison utilization rates in the 14 states for which we had data. Where more people were served by community mental health, fewer people were incarcerated.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions for future research in this area to pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us.

**Incarceration Rates and Community Mental Health Utilization Rates
(per 100,000 Population)
In Fourteen States: FY1999**



State	Incarceration Rate	MH Utilization Rate
Arizona	761	1,904
Colorado	520	1,709
Connecticut	511	1,075
Illinois	506	1,033
Indiana	506	1,224
Missouri	591	1,004
Oklahoma	825	1,057
Rhode Island	321	2,358
South Carolina	772	2,214
Texas	1,014	790
Utah	433	1,965
Vermont	203	3,051
Virginia	713	1,660
Washington	431	1,838

Community mental health utilization rates are from Center for Mental Health Services Sixteen State Project (www.mhsip.org/sixteenstate/CO99RATE.htm). Incarceration rates are from The Bureau of Justice Statistics as reported in *Scientific American* (December 2001, p.28).

Prepared by
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